



IFW

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 22, 2004.

Christa M. Thorpe

Applicant : Xian Yao, et al.

Application No. : 10/731,710

Filed : December 9, 2003

Title : METHOD FOR FORMING ULTRA HARD SINTERED COMPACTS
USING METALLIC PERIPHERAL STRUCTURES IN THE SINTERING
CELL

Grp./Div. : 1742

Examiner : To Be Assigned

Docket No. : 50547/CM/M277

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
37 CFR § 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Post Office Box 7068
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068
July 22, 2004

Commissioner:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, and in accordance with the provisions in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure §§ 609 and 707.05(b), enclosed is FORM PTO/SB/08A/B listing the references that are known to applicant. Copies of each of the listed references are enclosed. This filing is timely because it is made during one of the periods described in 37 CFR § 1.97(b).

It is respectfully requested that the listed references be considered in the examination of this application and identified on the list of references cited on the patent issuing for this application.

Application No. 10/731,710

Applicant also requests that an initialed copy of FORM PTO/SB/08A/B be entered in the application file and returned to applicant with the next communication from the Office in accordance with MPEP § 609.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By

Constantine Marantidis
Reg. No. 39,759
626/795-9900

CM/cmt

Enclosures: Form PTO/SB/08A/B (w/ References)
CMT PAS575795.1-* 07/22/04 9:23 AM

FORM PTO/SB/08A/B (10-01)
Substitute for PTO-1449A/B

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

JUL 21 2004

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Attorney Docket Number	50547/CM/M277
Application Number	10/731,710
Filing Date	December 9, 2003
Applicant(s)	Xian Yao, et al.
Group Art Unit	1742
Examiner Name	To Be Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. ¹	DOCUMENT NUMBER Number - Kind Code ² (If Known)	PUBLICATION DATE MM-DD-YYYY	NAME OF PATENTEE
		4,259,090	03-31-1981	Bovenkerk
		4,702,649	10-27-1987	Komanduri
		4,997,049	03-05-1991	Tank et al.
		5,173,090	12-22-1992	Scott et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (If Known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	T ⁶ (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)

OTHER DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article, title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	

CMT PAS575796.1-*07/22/04 9:27 AM

EXAMINER SIGNATURE		DATE CONSIDERED	
--------------------	--	--------------------	--

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.pto.gov or MPEP 901.4. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English Language Translation is attached.

Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

CM/cmt